

CONSTITUTION OF THE HOWARD UNIVERSITY AFRICAN BUSINESS CLUB

CHARTERED 2008



ARTICLE I

Name

- The organization will be called the Howard University African Business Club, hereinafter referred to as HUABC.

ARTICLE II

Statement of purpose

- The main purpose of this organization is to examine, promote and contribute to the global awareness of the fast growing business landscape in Africa by organizing events, conferences, expository tours and panels, as well as mutual education and continuous quest for business knowledge and partnership building amongst its member, Africans and the African diaspora.
- The organization will also aid enlighten and the general public on study abroad opportunities in Africa.

ARTICLE III

History

- The club was founded as an aftermath of a successful African business conference held on February 29th and March 1, 2008 in the Howard University School of Business. This event was organized by a group of fourteen (14) individuals initially under the auspices of the Howard University African Students' Association. These individuals are:

Mr. Ozioma Obiaka, B.S Electrical Engineering 2009 (Howard University)

Mr. Uzoma Nwagba ,B.S Electrical Engineering 2009 (Howard University)

Mr. Edwin Elodimuor, BBA Finance 2009 (Howard University)

Mr. Edmund Adae-Ekonadu, MBA 2009 (Howard University)

Mr. Sammy Puliam, MBA (Howard University)

Mr. Damilola Olu-Ayeni, BBA Finance 2009 (Howard University)

Mr. Jide Siyanbola, BBA Finance 2007 (Howard University)

Mr. Tony Idugboe, BBA Finance 2008 (Howard University)

Miss Ope Oladapo, BBA Finance 2009 (Howard University)

Mr. Hassan Ayinde, B.S Electrical Engineering 2008 (Howard University)

Mr. Segun Adebayo, B.S Electrical Engineering (Howard University)

Mr. Michael Henderson, B.A Philosophy and Economics 2008 (Howard University)

Mr. Adeolu Adebari, BBA Information Systems and Analysis 2009 (Howard University)

Mr. Kelenna Obonna, BBA Finance 2010 (Howard University)

The club, with the fourteen (14) individuals listed above, forming its charter members; officially shed its affiliation with the Howard University African Student's Association and began independent operations on March 3, 2008.

Unfortunately, the club was rendered inactive in 2010.

However, in Fall 2016, the following Howard University students revived the club:

Ifeanyichukwu Ilo, B.S Mechanical Engineering 2018
Emmanuel Balogun, B.S Mechanical Engineering 2018
Ikenna Onyenze, B.S Electrical Engineering 2018
Oluwatosin Ishola, BBA Accounting 2018
Chinenye Ogueri, BBA International Business 2017
Damola Fowora, B.S Electrical Engineering 2018
Alexandria Whitner, BBA Business Management 2018
Ashley Holt, B.S Biology 2018
Omer Shaiyen, BBA Accounting 2018

ARTICLE IV

Executive Officers

The Executive Officers of the Howard University African Business Club shall consist of the following members: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Public Relations Officer. The initial Executive Officers will be selected by the founding members and serve for a term of one year. After the first year, these officers will be appointed after an electoral process administered by a special elections panel constituted by the outgoing member of the executive council. The minimum GPA requirement to run for a major executive board position is 3.0.

The Board will administer all programs, projects and matters pertaining to or concerning the HUABC. The Executive Officers will also create and maintain a yearly plan of action for the HUABC.

The HUABC general body meeting will be held twice a month. The Secretary will notify all Executive Officers one week prior to the meeting date and time.

ARTICLE V

Officers

1. The primary officers of the chapter shall be the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Public Relations Officer. The main adjunct officers include the Graduate School of Business Student Council Liaison and the African Students' Association Liaison. Liaison officers for the schools on campus may also be appointed if needed by the executive council. These officers shall be selected by the members of the executive council. Board members shall be selected by an electoral process consisting of at least one half of the members of the organization. The executive board positions are as follows, but not limited to:
 - I. **President** – The President shall preside over all meeting and affairs of the Howard University African Business Club. As head of the executive committee, he or she will a key role in appointing heads of various sub-committees. The President shall also be responsible for representing the club in person or by correspondence in relation to the Advisory Board.
 - II. **Vice-President** – The Vice-President shall exercise the duties and responsibilities of the President when the latter is for any reason unable to exercise them. He or she will also be responsible for managing the rest of the executive board functions.
 - III. **Secretary** – The Secretary shall keep official minutes of the Howard University African Business Club, including copies of all committee reports. He or she shall be responsible for the official file of correspondence of the club, and an up-to-date copy of the constitution and by-laws. He or she communicates to the general body the decisions of the executive body. The secretary shall also be responsible for notifying members of HUABC meetings. He or she performs such other duties that fall within the jurisdiction of the office.
 - IV. **Treasurer** – The Treasurer shall receive, disburse, and keep custody of the funds of the Howard University African Business Club. He or she will receive and file the annual audit report of the Finance Committee, and shall perform such other duties that fall within the jurisdiction of the office.
 - V. **Public Relations Officer** – The Public Relations Officer will be responsible for organizing all activities related to publicity--such as advertisement, posters and flyers. He or she shall be responsible for communicating the affairs of the club to the public.
 - VI. **Graduate School of Business Student Council Liaison** – The responsibilities of the GSBSC Liaison include: building and maintaining collaboration between the Howard University African Business Club and the Howard University Graduate School of Business Student Council, and such other duties that fall within the jurisdiction of the office.
 - VII. **African Students' Association Liaison** – The responsibilities of the HUASA Liaison include: building and maintaining collaboration between the Howard University African Business Club and the Howard University African Students' Association, and other such duties that fall within the jurisdiction of the office.

2. In the event of a vacancy in positions (I – V) listed above, such position will be temporarily filled by the next ranking member of the executive council until a special election is organized after a two-week notice is given to the members of the club.
3. Any officer acting below the expectations of his or her office, on the recommendation of one-fifth of the executive council, would be issued an official warning. If no change is observed, a motion to put such officer on a one-month probation will be put forward. A vote of two-fifths of the Executive Council shall be required for such a motion to pass, after which a letter would be sent to the officer citing reasons for placement on probation and specific actions to be taken so the probation can be lifted. On the account of no change in attitude, a motion for permanent relief of duties would be put forward. With a vote of three-fifths of the Executive Council in favor of the motion, the officer will be sent a letter duly signed requesting for him or her to step down.

ARTICLE VI

Advisors

1. The Advisory Board shall consist of individuals who strongly believe in both the cause and potential of the Howard University African Business Club. These individuals are people who have distinguished themselves in several business endeavors on the African continent. They are committed to actively using their expertise to help the club achieve its objectives.
2. This advisory board shall consist of a special campus advisor who will be selected through a simple majority voting process by the founding executive board. The advisor shall be a current member of the teaching staff of the Howard University Business School. This advisor serves as the liaison between Howard University and the African Business Club. He or she, as part of several responsibilities, shall serve to maintain the longevity of this organization on campus.

ARTICLE VII

Membership

1. Qualification – All membership into HUABC will be strictly by invitation. The qualification for membership of the Howard University African Business Club includes strong evidence of sincere interest in issues directly related to the African Business and socio-economic landscape. Interested persons must have demonstrated exceptional achievement or ability in business and non-business fields, and must possess qualities that will foster the purpose of the Howard University African Business Club. Interested candidates must be in good academic standing, must be enrolled as a full time student at Howard University in the

academic year of desired membership, and must have a GPA of 2.8 and above. They must also complete a membership application expressing their interests and desired involvement in the HUABC.

2. Tiers of membership – Membership shall consist of three tiers: Student members, advisory board members, and alumni members.

I. Student members

This will comprise of graduate and undergraduate students of Howard University. These students must be in good academic standing. They must possess such qualities as will foster the purpose of the Howard University African Business Club.

II. Advisory board

The Howard University Faculty Advisor, as well as select executives of indigenous African corporations who have supported the Howard University African Business Club shall constitute the advisory board.

III. Alumni members

This will comprise of graduates from Howard University and any other accredited college or university in the United States. These individuals must demonstrate strong interest in the objectives of the Howard University African Business Club.

3. If any club member acts in a way that conflicts with the objectives of the Howard University African Business Club, that member will be issued a warning in the form of a letter signed by the Secretary of the club. If the member refuses to change, and act to uphold the objectives of the club, a motion to dismiss that member from the club would be put forward by any member of the executive council in an executive council meeting. If three-fifths of the executive council votes in favor of the motion, the member will be sent a letter duly signed asking for him or her to sever association with the club, and membership fees may be refunded.

ARTICLE VIII

Committees

The executive committee of the Howard University African Business Club shall appoint functional committees. Membership in these committees shall be on a voluntary basis. Each committee shall have a coordinator approved by the executive committee and he or she shall schedule meetings of their own committees as deemed necessary. He or she shall report periodically to the executive committee.

ARTICLE IX

Elections

1. The outgoing executive board shall constitute a special elections panel three weeks prior to the end of the spring semester. The panel will coordinate the electoral process.
2. Elections for executive committee offices will be held once every year in the spring.
3. In the event of a vacancy in any of the executive committee offices, the next ranking member of the executive council will temporarily fill the office until a special election is organized after a two-week notice is given to the members of the HUABC.
4. All active members of the HUABC who are sophomores, juniors or seniors with good academic standing at Howard University and a minimum GPA of 3.0 are eligible to run for office.
5. Terms of office shall run from the last day of each academic year (the graduation date in May) to the last day of the next academic year. No officer or committee member may serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office.
6. Elections will be officially announced three weeks prior to the end of the spring semester.

ARTICLE X

Nominations

Potential executive council members shall be nominated by the members of the Howard University African Business Club. These nominations will be by open ballot at a general body meeting. Nominees would be informed within three days of the nomination process to either accept or decline their nomination. The nomination process will be coordinated by the electoral board.

ARTICLE XI

Finances

1. All HUABC members will be required to pay annual dues in the amount of \$20.00, payable each semester in the amount of \$10.00. This must be paid to the Howard University African Business Club Treasurer by the second week of resumption for both the fall and spring semesters.
2. The finances of the organization shall be sourced primarily from corporate sponsorship. The Treasurer of the organization shall be responsible for collecting all finances due to the organization. The President, in agreement with the treasurer, shall be able to authorize any expenditure from the HUABC account.

ARTICLE XII

Meetings

1. General body meetings shall be held on a bi-weekly basis. Emergency meetings can be called when deemed necessary with at least twenty four (24) hours notice by the President or Vice-President.
2. Organizational decisions on any issue shall be made after a motion is pushed forward by a member in attendance, seconded by another member, and given an affirmative vote by two-thirds of the membership in attendance when the president opens the floor to a general vote.
3. All paid members are eligible to vote at meetings.
4. A quorum shall consist of one-half majority of the club's membership.

ARTICLE XIII

Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws

The constitution may be amended by a three-fourth vote of a quorum of members present at a duly called meeting of the Howard University African Business Club. The number of members required to constitute a quorum shall be a one half majority of the entire club membership. No amendment to these laws shall be effective if in conflict with the constitution or Bylaws of the Howard University African Business Club or Howard University policy. A copy of the amendments will be forwarded to the Howard University Office of Student Activities.

ARTICLE XIV

Parliamentary Procedures

The Robert's Rules of Order will be used in parliamentary instances not covered by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Howard University African Business Club.

ARTICLE XV

Ratification

The constitution of the Howard University African Business Club will go into effect after a two-thirds majority vote of the members present at a duly called meeting.

September 14, 2016.